

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/724,978

Examiner

Carl H. Layno

Applicant(s)

JAHNS ET AL.

Art Unit

3766

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Papers filed on November 15, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/24/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's amendment, which was received by the Office on November 15, 2006.

2. Claim 61 is canceled. Claims 1-60 are active.

Specification

3. In view of the applicant's modifications to the specification, the Examiner is withdrawing the objections, which were made against the specification in the last Office action.

Claim Objections

4. In view of the applicant's modifications to the claims, the Examiner is withdrawing the 37 CFR 1.75(c) objections, which were made against claims 18-29 and 31 in the last Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. In view of applicant's modifications to claim 30, the Examiner is withdrawing the 35 U.S.C 112 2nd paragraph rejection, which was made against this claim in the last Office action.

Double Patenting

Art Unit: 3766

6. In view of applicant's modifications to claim 50, the Examiner is withdrawing the Double Patenting rejections based upon U.S Patents 6,718,208 and 6,735,471.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. Upon further reconsideration of applicant's arguments, claim cancellation, and amendments to claim 50, the Examiner is withdrawing the 35 U.S.C 102(b) rejections of Collins (US 5,203,326) or Schwartz (US 5,330,507), which were made against claims 50, 53-56, and 61 in the last Office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-60 are allowed.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The Taylor et al (US 5,913,876) patent is cited for its pertinent disclosure of a vagal nerve stimulation arrangement (Fig.22) used during surgery and involving both a vagal nerve stimulation circuit 220 and cardiac pacing stimulation circuit 224. Unlike applicant's device, however, the Taylor et al patent does not disclose a "processor" for controlling the outputs of both of these devices (cl.50). The vagal nerve stimulator and pacing circuit of Taylor et al are separate entities controlled by a physician.

Although other similar references were located, none recited applicant's claimed combination of features and also predated applicant's April 30, 1998 and April 30, 1996 priority filing dates.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl H. Layno whose telephone number is (571) 272-4949. The examiner can normally be reached on 9/4/5.

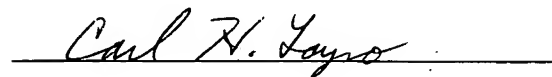
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/724,978

Page 5

Art Unit: 3766

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carl N. Layno", is written over a solid horizontal line.

CARL LAYNO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

CHL

1/12/2007